(iv) To suggest a system of identifying the technologies to be introduced for contract farming with a provision of compensation for any under-performance or failure of the technologies introduced by the sponsors;

(v) To suggest legal, institutional and/or financial measures required for encouraging contract farming arrangements between the farmers and the agro-processing industry/exporters; and

(vi) To identify area specific agriculture commodities suitable for Contract Farming for selected agro climatic conditions.

Statement-II

List of Agencies involved in Contract Farming as reported by the State Governments

(i) Assam: M/s. Kishlay Snack Products, Dewan Patty, Fency Bazar.

(ii) Bihar: Golden Chips Company.

(iii) Goa: Godrej Agrovet Pvt. Ltd., Sanjivani Sahakari Sakhar and Karkhana Ltd.

(iv) Gujarat: Agrocell Corporation, Mecain India Ltd. and Desai Cold Storage.

(v) Haryana: HAFED.

(vi) Mizoram: Godrej Agrovet Pvt. Ltd., Food and Fertilizers Ltd., Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd. and Eco-first India Ltd.

(vii) Orissa: M/s Welspun India Private Ltd., Super Spinning Mill, Amit Green Acre and M/s Eco Farm.

(viii) Punjab: Tata Chemicals Ltd., Pepsi Foods Ltd., Mahendra Shubhlabh Services Ltd., Escorts Ltd., Chambal Agritech Ltd., AM Todd Ltd., Hindustan Liver Ltd., Naranjan Rice Exports Pvt. Ltd., KRBL Ltd. etc.

(ix) Tamil Nadu: Appachi CARE Foundation, Pollachi and Super Spinning Mills, Shiva Textile Ltd. and Cotton Corporation of India for cotton; Suguna Poultry Farm Ltd., Pioneer Hatcheries, Shakthi Chicken Private Ltd. and NAFED for maize; Sugar Mills for sugar; M/s Mohan Breweries and Distilleries Ltd. and M/s Shiva Distilleries Ltd. for jatropha; and M/s Kaveri Palm Oil Ltd. for oilpalm.

Regional cancer centre at NEIGRIHMS

†*353. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which a decision to set up a Regional Cancer Centre at the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, was taken and the date on which its foundation stone was laid;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of beds for which provision has been made in this centre and the progress made in this regard alongwith the number of beds provided at present;

(c) the budget allocated for it alongwith the details of budget allocation and expenditure for the last three years;

(d) the amount of funds sanctioned for construction and for equipments, separately and whether accordingly the construction work has been completed and equipments have been procured; and

(e) the time schedule fixed for completion of the above said programme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) There is a proposal to set up a Regional Cancer Centre at North East Indira Gandhi Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong. No foundation stone has been laid for the Centre so far.

Free treatment for HIV/AIDS patients

*354. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per a report called Towards Universal Access: Scaling Up Priority HIV/AIDS Interventions in the Health Sector, jointly released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), UNAIDS and UNICEF recently states that among the 39.5 million people living with HIV/AIDS in the world, 5.7 millions are in India;

(b) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation started giving free paediatric doses of anti-retroviral drugs to children under the national programme in December 2006; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide treatment to all the HIV and AIDS patients free of cost?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) In its report on the Global AIDS epidemic published by UNAIDS in May, 2006, 5.7million persons were estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS in India. During 2007, NACO reviewed the estimation method alongwith national and international experts; including UNAIDS, WHO, CDC Atlanta etc. The review was carried out keeping in mind the availability of reports based on National Family Health Survey-III, Integrated Biological and Behaviour Survey in High Risk Groups and an expanded sentinel surveillance. Following the expert consultation, NACO estimated that persons living with HIV/AIDS in India range between 2 to 3 million. Of them, it is estimated that there are 70,000 children below 15 years of age who are living with the virus.

In order to ensure universal access of treatment to children, the National Peadiatric AIDS initiative was launched on 30th November, 2006. Under this Initiative, free paediatric doses of Anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs and free diagnostics